AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total potential of natural and associated gas and its current production;

(b) what is the amount of associated gas still being flared; and

(c) what steps are being taken to put the available gas to an optimum use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The balance recoverable reserves of natural gas are estimated at around 700 BCM as on 1.4.93. The current production of natural gas is 49.87 MMSCMD of which 22.04 MMSCMD is associated gas.

(b) The current rate of flaring is 5.02 MMSCMD.

(c) After extraction of LPG and C2, C3 fractions to the extent feasible, the available gas is being supplied to the fertilizer, power and other industrial units. The required compression and transportation facilities are being set up to reduce flaring to the technical minimum.

Offer from Oman oil company

2925. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has asked the Oman Oil Companies to offer a fresh price before it can make any commitment as the cost of natural gas offered by the OOC is too high to be acceptable to Government;

(b) if so, what is the OOC's price offered for supply of natural gas;

(c) whether in this connection an inter-departmental Committee was set up by Government last year;

(d) whether the said Committee presented report to the Government in January, 1994;

(e) if so, what were the main recommendations made by the Committe;

(f) to what extent the recommendations of the Committee have been examined; and

(g) what steps are being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (g) An Inter-departmental Committee has been constituted to look into the key ingredients and parameters, including the price of gas, that should constitute the framework of a Long Term Gas Supply Contract with the Oman Oil Company. The issues involved are under discussion with the Oman Oil Company.

Allegation on state oil selection boards

2926. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has received large number of complaints from the public that money and other considerations are playing its role in the distribution of petroleum and gas outlets; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have received complaints against the State Oil Selection Boards of Haryana, Punjab and Delhi, if so, what is the nature of complaints;

(c) whether Government have initiated any action or propose to take any action against the guilty Chairman/Members of the Boards; and

(d) whether Government propose to change the present policy of appointment of State Selection Boards and the distribution system for the allotment of petroleum outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Complaints have been received against the functioning of some of the Oil Selection Boards. Tenues of Chairman and Members of 7 Oil Selection Boards including those of Haryana and Punjab have been terminated on 2.3.1994.

(d) No, Sir.

Assurance for Zero flaring of gas

2927. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of plans for achieving 'zero gas flaring' and what is the present position;

(b) what is the value of gas flared annually in the country at today's international prices at which India is buying gas inclusive of transport and handling at ports; etc.;

(c) what is the estimated value of natural gas contracted by India for imports for the coming year and the allocations therefor in Forex; and

(d) by when we are going to achieve the 'zero flaring' of natural gas at Bombay High at the present trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) A number of schemes designed to reduce gas flaring are being implemented by ONGC and OIL. These include:

(i) augmentation of gas collection, compression, transportation and treatment at various places; and

(ii) underground gas storage for future use.

(b) India is not importing natural gas at present. At domestic prices, the value of gas flared between April '93 to January '94 is estimated at Rs. 178.67 crores.

(c) There are no contracts as yet for the import natural gas.

(d) The Gas Flaring Reduction Project for Western offshore fields is expected to be completed in 1996.

Proposal to increase prices of HSD and Kerosene

2928. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmsnt propose to increase the prices of High-speed Diesel and Kerosene; if so, the details thereof;

(b) how much subsidy Government is giving on High-speed Diesel and Kerosene separately in a financial year;

(c) how long Government propose to continue with the present subsidy for the above two items;

(d) whether Government propose to import, sale and distribute these products to private sector; and

(e) if so, what are the details thersof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) The subsidy for the year 1992 93 has been as under:

	Rs./Crores
SKO	3304
HSD	120

(c) Presently, there is no proposal to discontinue it.